

# The American Observer

*A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends. -- James Monroe*

VOLUME XII, NUMBER 7

WASHINGTON, D. C.

OCTOBER 19, 1942

## Industrial Changes Go Forward Rapidly

Survey of Country Shows Extent to Which War Has Transformed American Life

## ECONOMIC CURBS INCREASE

Rationing Plans Will Be Greatly Extended as War Program Continues to Move Ahead

The Consumer Division of the Office of Price Administration has just published a bulletin which presents a vivid picture of changes that are going on in American industry and some of the effects of these changes on American life. It also explains some of the governmental policies which have been adopted as a result of the changes—such policies as price control and rationing.

One of the most noticeable effects of the war on the industry of the nation is the greatly increased activity which may be observed all along the line. Nearly all the workers of the country are busy. There is relatively little unemployment. Most industries are working at or near their capacity, and countless numbers of new factories and plants have been erected. There is, throughout the land, a surging of energy. Production on the farms and in the factories is mounting steadily.

If all this energy were being used to produce food, clothing, shelter, and other things which contribute to comfort and enjoyment, we could all have a standard of living higher than any that the world has ever seen. But all the activity is not going into the production of necessities and luxuries of ordinary life. A great part of it, probably about half of it, is devoted to the production of war materials. It is necessary, of course, that this should be done if we are to win the war.

### Conversion of Industry

If one should visit a factory which last year was manufacturing radios, he would find the men and the machinery being used to make transmitters and receivers for the armed services.

The washing machine industry now makes gun-mount parts, land mines, shells, bomber turrets, and airplane engine starters.

Factories which have been devoted to the making of refrigerators now make machine guns and airplane propellers.

The silver-plated flatware industries now make surgical instruments, metal buckles, cartridge clips, bomb holders, and bayonets.

Factories which formerly turned out typewriters now produce various types of fuses, .30 calibre ammunition, rifles, and 40 mm. projectiles.

The automobile plants are busy producing army "jeeps," small and medium tanks, airplanes, and big guns.

Materials which formerly were

(Concluded on page 7)



Hitting with both fists

## A Political Duty

By Walter E. Myer

It is hard to realize that we are at the eve of a national election, that in about two weeks a Congress will be elected—a third of the Senate and the entire House of Representatives. In the days of peace the congressional campaign would have been a matter of absorbing interest, but now it is almost lost amidst the dramatic events connected with the war, on both home and foreign fronts. It will be unfortunate, however, if election issues are neglected. These are times of national danger, and the issues of today and tomorrow will depend in large part upon the wisdom of Congress. The President will, of course, in these days of crisis, assume unusual powers, but heavy responsibilities remain with the legislative branch of the government. If democracy is to be preserved through the crisis years, Congress must command the respect of the American people.

It is highly important, therefore, that the congressional campaign be taken seriously. This does not mean that voters should be concerned about matters of party politics. Partisanship should be forgotten in such times as these. Whether a candidate is a Democrat or a Republican is not to be seriously considered. There are, in fact, no big issues upon which the two parties are at present clearly and sharply divided. The job of each citizen is to examine the qualifications of the candidates of his own district and to support the one who will probably serve the country best in these days of danger and of highly complicated economic and international issues. We speak of the duty of the citizen rather than the voter, for each citizen, whether a voter or not, may and should exert influence in a political campaign. You, the reader of this editorial, may be too young to vote, but you are not too young to read, to think, to study issues, to form judgments regarding candidates. You may select your candidate and then support him in discussions with your parents and friends. In this way you can exert a potent influence.

A good many people, in making choices among candidates, will inquire about the attitude of the candidates toward the war. What, they will ask, were the candidate's views before Pearl Harbor? It would be a mistake, however, to attach too much importance to one's attitude before we got into the war. One may change opinions in the face of changing events, and many have done so. The pre-Pearl Harbor attitude is important only as an indication of what the position of a candidate will be after the war is over. You, the citizen, have, or should have, views as to the part America should play in international affairs after the war. You should try to select for support a candidate who will follow such a course as you approve in dealing with problems of international reconstruction. You should also require that your candidate be well informed, that he be tolerant, yet a man of convictions, that he be deeply concerned about the welfare of his country and humanity, that he have a strong but adaptable mind.

## Struggle In Pacific Reaches New Crisis

American Forces Drive Japanese from Their Positions in Two Aleutian Islands

## ROLE OF ALASKA SURVEYED

In South Pacific, Japanese Make New Troop Landings in Desperate Bid to Regain Solomons

The war in the Pacific took a new turn last week as the United States intensified its campaign to dislodge the Japanese from the outposts they had seized during the early months of the war. In the north, encouraging reports came from the Aleutians where it appeared we were succeeding in regaining the three islands occupied by the Japanese early in June. Already they had evacuated the islands of Attu and Agattu, and American flyers were stepping up their raids on Kiska, the remaining Aleutian in Japanese hands.

Thousands of miles to the south, in the Solomon Islands, the tempo of battle increased. American planes hammered away relentlessly at troop transports and other Japanese war vessels which were seeking to reinforce the islands. The Americans were struggling desperately to maintain their hold on the island of Guadalcanal, westernmost of the Solomons, where the Marines had forced a landing and seized the airport early in August. The Battle of the Solomons seemed to be gaining new momentum last week, with a crisis impending.

### A Critical Stage

The war in the Pacific is now reaching the stage where we are undertaking to regain many of the critical island outposts from which we can later attack the enemy more directly. These islands, scattered over a distance of some 7,000 miles, are vital to the nation which can hold them. In the hands of Japan, they serve as advance bases for naval and air units bent on extending the field of conquest. In our hands, they are essential as steppingstones to regain lost ground; to recapture the Netherlands Indies, Malaya, the Philippines, and the other possessions of the United Nations lost in those tragic weeks following Pearl Harbor. They also serve as bases from which one day we shall unleash direct assaults against Japan proper.

It is apparent throughout the Pacific area that the United States is gradually getting itself in readiness to launch a wide-scale offensive against the Japanese. After months of defensive warfare, during which our major objective was to hold as much as we could, our armed forces are now taking the initiative on many fronts in the Pacific, in preparation for the day when the war can be brought home to Japan.

Among the more important achievements of recent weeks has been our

(Concluded on page 6)





This "Axis" gets our okay  
BRESSLER EDITORIAL CARTOONS, N.Y.



We can't be tough abroad and soft at home  
THOMAS IN DETROIT NEWS

## A Book in the News

### Sabotage in the United States

FROM time to time scattered newspaper headlines jolt the citizen into awareness of the undercover enemy within the United States. A saboteur is sent to prison. A subversive newspaper is barred from the mails. FBI men corner a Nazi agent or two. But the whole picture, exciting and fearsome as its episodes may be, does not hang together. The casual newspaper reader cannot conceive of these lurid events in proper relation to the sinister network of world-wide anti-democratic intrigue which they represent.

In a new book by Michael Sayers and Albert E. Kahn the true outlines of fascist boring-from-within take shape. *Sabotage! The Secret War Against America* (New York: Harper & Brothers, \$2.50) presents the whole story of German and Japanese sponsored propaganda and espionage activities as they have been uncovered in the United States.

The first half of the book is devoted to the bomb-planting, blueprint-stealing type of enemy operation known to all readers of spy stories and "Superman." The historical continuity into which the authors fit this information is of special interest. In a carefully documented study they show how organized sabotage predated the First World War and was carried on in the United States throughout the years leading up to the present conflict.

The giant conspiracy represents the subtle interweaving of fascist elements from all over the world. In rural Connecticut, Russian-born Count Anastase Vonsiatsky plotted fascist coups with both German and Japanese agents. He and other totalitarian-minded Russians from the Ukraine carried on negotiations with such native sympathizers as William Dudley Pelley.

According to the authors, a strong faction of Ukrainian terrorists have been aiding the fascist states as secret agents since the last war. Completely crushed at home by Soviet authority, they have based their operations in the Axis countries.

Perhaps even more sinister than the man with the incendiary pencil is the psychological saboteur. The second half of this book is devoted to enemy sabotage of morale through subversive publications and native front groups.

The two authors of *Sabotage!* gathered their material through *The Hour*, a confidential newsletter devoted to investigating and exposing

Axis fifth column work. Kahn is now editor of *The Hour*, which is published for the use of editors, columnists, and radio newscasters. Its work has been widely acclaimed, and has frequently led to government action against foreign agents.

In exciting detail, the second half of the book traces the foreign connections of all the subversive publications and organizations involved in psychological sabotage of the American war effort. Axis agents found that clearly alien organizations, such as the German-American Bund, were entirely too vulnerable for their purposes. So began their search for a genuinely native fascist group to "front" for their efforts.

Preying upon the high-principled pacifism of many American dupes as well as the fascistic inclinations of other individuals, they finally seized upon the Committee to Defend America First, started by a Yale University student.

Manipulating the personnel of this committee so that it became affiliated with all antiwar, anti-Jewish, and pro-Axis groups in the country, Nazi agents created a strong minority who helped their campaign to keep America from joining the fight against Hitler.

The authors point out that the psychological sabotage which succeeded so well before we officially entered the war did not cease with Pearl Harbor. Defeatism and disunity are promoted by many interests today in the effort to undermine the American war effort. Not all the subversive elements have been silenced, according to the authors, and it behooves the average citizen to be constantly on guard against that type of psychological warfare which is so dangerous.

Psychological sabotage is now carried on through destructive criticism of the administration and the technique of belittling America's allies. Patriotic wording hides the true intent of such messages.

By revealing the insidious methods of the saboteur, this book stands as a clear warning. Federal authority is rapidly catching up with those who undertake to destroy the American war effort, but there are many influences which still menace national morale. The great service of *Sabotage!* is that it strips the clever liars and their arguments of all pretended Americanism and reveals the clear outlines of the swastika and the rising sun.

## Straight Thinking on the War

By CLAY COSS

A NUMBER of newspapers in the Middle West recently went together and conducted a poll of their readers on certain questions pertaining to the war and to the peace which is to follow. Some of the opinions expressed in that poll are of interest and significance. One point in particular is deserving of comment.

A question to this effect was asked by the poll-takers: Should the United States help out in rebuilding the devastated areas of the world after the fighting has ceased? The large majority of people who replied gave an affirmative answer.

Then the question was asked, should we participate in this postwar undertaking if the cost to us would be very great—if we would have to lower our living standards and make sacrifices in order to do so? A different reply was given to this query. The majority answered in the negative.

Now if this same attitude were adopted within our own country, an individual, when asked to contribute to the Community Chest or some other charitable enterprise, might well reply: "I'll be only too glad to do so if I find that such a donation will in no way entail any sacrifice on my part or cause my standard of living to be lowered."

Obviously, such a policy would not be humane, and it is even doubtful whether, from an individual standpoint, it would pay in the long run. At times, there would be widespread suffering which might lead to serious conflicts among various groups of the population. The welfare of individuals as well as the entire nation would be impaired and endangered by such conflicts. Selfishness of this

variety has led to revolutions in the past.

The same comparison may be made between an individual nation and the world as a whole. If each nation refused to make any sacrifice in helping out less fortunate countries, our world would not be on any higher humanitarian plane than it was many centuries ago. What is more, it is extremely doubtful if such a policy is practical—if it pays an individual nation in the long run. There is at least the possibility that as all countries become more cooperative, more willing to work together and to share sacrifices, wars can be avoided or reduced in number—wars which cost each nation many times as much as any form of peaceful cooperation would ever demand.

We have no proof, of course, that international cooperation will stop wars, but we have had two tragic



Coventry—after its bombing

and costly lessons within a quarter of a century showing the inability of selfish nationalism to maintain peace. It may be logically argued, therefore, that cooperation should be given a trial after this war, even if the initial cost involves some sacrifice for the more fortunate nations.

## SMILES

"I'm sorry," said the diner, who hoped to get away with it, "but I haven't any money to pay for that meal."

"That's all right," said the cashier. "We'll write your name on the wall and you can pay the next time you come in."

"Don't do that. Everybody who comes in will see it."

"Oh, no, they won't. Your overcoat will be hanging over it."

—ROTARY NEWS

"How did your victory garden turn out this year?"

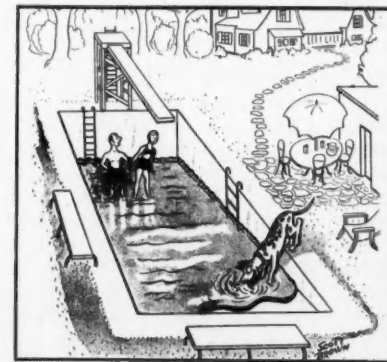
"It was a great saving in one way—there wasn't as much lawn to mow."

—WALL STREET JOURNAL

Customer: "What makes this milk so blue?"

Milkman: "It must be these cold, wet autumn nights that depress the cows."

—CAPPER'S WEEKLY



Thirsty, wasn't he?  
BROWN IN SATURDAY EVENING POST

"Young man," said the old lady to the grocery clerk, "how do you sell your limburger cheese?"

"Madam," replied the clerk, "I sometimes wonder about that myself."

—LABOR

Prospective Roomer: "This window is quite small. It wouldn't be much good in an emergency."

Landlady: "There isn't going to be any emergency, mister. My terms are cash in advance."

—THE STANLEY WORLD

Neighbor: "So they've promoted your son? What is he now?"

Proud Pop: "Why they made him a court marshal, and you'd never guess why. It was for hitting the sergeant."

—CAPPER'S WEEKLY

Employer: "Have you any references?"

Applicant: "Sure, here's the letter: 'To whom it may concern, John Jones worked for us one week, and we're satisfied.'"

—SELECTED

Horace Greeley, one of America's most famous editors, stubbornly insisted that the word "news" was plural. It's claimed that once he wired a reporter: "Are there any news?"

The sagacious fellow wired in reply: "Not a new."

—SELECTED

A man who had gone all out for tire conservation bought a horse, which he rode to work in the morning and home at night.

"It's great," his wife told a neighbor recently. "No more frozen radiators, no dead batteries or tire bills. And it's exciting, too. I never know which to expect home first—my husband or the horse."

—INVEST DEALERS' DIGEST



# Plans to Prevent Postwar Unemployment

THE National Resources Planning Board is working on plans to prevent wholesale unemployment in the United States after the war is over, and it has issued a preliminary report. This report is important because of the fact that it tackles one of the most dangerous problems of American life.

Unemployment has been a serious problem in this country for a good many years. During the 1930's, millions of people were out of work in this country—more than 10 million for a considerable period of that decade.

This meant that a large proportion of the American people were either deprived of the necessities of life and compelled to live on an extremely low level, or else that they were supported by the public in one form or another.

Any plan for the future of America must include a program for insuring work to all, or nearly all, the population. This problem was studied continuously during the 1930's, and no satisfactory solution was found. Even after the country seemed well on its way out of the depression, millions remained unemployed, and if there was not wholesale suffering, it was because work was furnished by the government through the WPA and other projects.

There is quite a little unemployment now, due chiefly to the fact that war activities are driving many small businesses from the field. The employees of these concerns are, in many cases, temporarily out of work, though nearly all who are able-bodied are now finding jobs without great delay in the war industries.

But there is no reason to think that the unemployment problem will not be with us again when the war is over. In fact, there is reason to feel that it may appear in a highly intensified form. It is quite possible that when the war ends we may have as many as 10 million men under arms. If these men are released from the Army soon after hostilities close, it will probably be impossible for all, or even most of them, to find jobs.

The situation is all the more serious because the war industries, the industries which are making guns, tanks, ammunition, and other war supplies, will be out of business when the war ends. About half of all the workers of the nation are now, or soon will be, employed in these industries. If half of all industrial workers are turned loose and 10 million soldiers come back looking for jobs, the situation will be critical.

Of course, there will be a great deal of work to be done when the war is over. There will be a very heavy demand for automobiles, washing machines, refrigerators, radios, and other things which are not now being made. If we can prevent unemployment, if we can keep the masses of the people employed, they will have enough money to buy these things that they want. Factories can turn to the manufacture of such articles, and can sell them when they are made. The men now employed in war work can then have jobs in these peacetime industries.

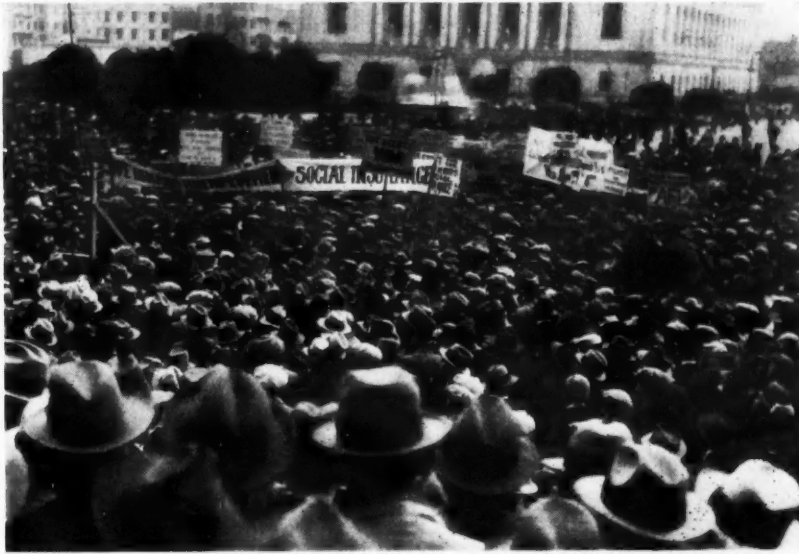
But it will take time to retool all the factories which have been making war supplies and get them in shape to make automobiles, refrigerators, radios, etc., again. During this period

when the factories are idle, we may have widespread unemployment. If so, the unemployed will not have incomes. They will be unable to buy the things they want, and factories will be afraid to start producing peacetime products for fear that they may not find buyers.

It is during this transition period

cities, and the federal government carry out building programs, many of the unemployed can be put to work.

4. In addition to the building of roads, bridges, and other public projects, the government may find it desirable to carry on a great housing project by which it will build homes for low-income groups.



YESTERDAY, unemployment was so widespread throughout the nation that it menaced our national security. Demonstrations demanding a solution of the problem, such as the above scene in San Francisco, were frequent.

which will follow the war that danger of unemployment and serious depression may come. And it is to provide for such a period that the National Resources Planning Board is working. Among the suggestions which the report makes are these:

1. It may be necessary to demobilize the Army slowly. The soldiers should not be released until jobs can be found for them. While they are held in the Army, it may be desirable to train them for specific kinds of work so that they can go out and get skilled jobs in peacetime industries.
2. The Unemployment Compensation

5. The government may also carry out soil conservation, flood control, reforestation, and irrigation projects.

6. Many people can be put to work in health, education, and recreation projects. These would have to be supported by the government.

The National Resources Planning Board does not think that we should depend upon any one plan or program. The problem should be attacked from many different angles. States and cities should cooperate with the federal government. Private business organizations, especially the large corporations, should also be



TODAY, unemployment has been largely eliminated except in a few areas and women are taking jobs to meet the nation's war needs. But unemployment is still likely to recur in an intensified form when the war is over unless careful plans are made.

tion System should be extended so that those who are out of work may receive increased compensation from the government.

3. The government should undertake an extensive program of public works in certain states, particularly New York and Virginia. Plans are already under way for big public building programs when the war closes. A number of cities are also working on such plans. If states,

planning means whereby they may give employment to increased numbers of workmen during the period following the war. Many of these great corporations could carry on building or development programs just as the government could.

It is realized that the various plans which have been suggested whereby jobs may be provided to millions of workers will cost money. The government would have to go ahead

spending a great deal after the war closes—not so much as it is spending now, but more than it would spend in ordinary times. It perhaps would have to borrow money for quite a while. But if increased expenses are necessary in order to prevent mass unemployment, it may be desirable to go ahead spending the money, for unemployed millions are almost as dangerous to a nation as war itself.

The report of the National Resources Planning Board is not receiving a great deal of attention in the American press. The thoughts of the public are so definitely occupied with the war that not much time is given to consideration of problems which will arise after the war. It is certain, however, that sharp controversies will develop if the government should ever undertake to put into operation such a program as that which the Board recommends in its report.

The first of the recommendations; that is, that demobilization go slowly, that many soldiers be held in the Army until jobs can be supplied for them, will stir up a heated debate. The soldiers will be anxious to get back home when the fighting ceases, and jobs or no jobs, it will be very hard indeed to keep them in the Army.

Other issues will arise over questions relating to continued government spending. Many will argue for an economy program and declare that the government should not engage in extensive public works or in other kinds of spending.

Issues will arise as to the part the government should play in regulating industry and in planning for the national welfare.

These controversies are likely to be both sharp and bitter. Those who favor a program similar to that which the National Resources Planning Board advocates, will argue that if the government does not take the lead in providing for employment and in getting the country back to peacetime production, utter chaos will result. Opponents of these ideas will charge that for the government to assume so much power will endanger democracy and put us on the road to dictatorship.

It is highly important that American citizens give all possible thought and attention to these issues, so that there will be a greater probability of their being wisely handled when they come up for settlement.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF MARCH 3, 1933, OF THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, PUBLISHED WEEKLY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR (EXCEPT TWO ISSUES IN DECEMBER AND THREE ISSUES FROM THE MIDDLE OF AUGUST TO THE FIRST WEEK IN SEPTEMBER), AT WASHINGTON, D. C., FOR OCTOBER 6, 1942.

District of Columbia, ss:  
Before me, a Notary Public in and for the District aforesaid, personally appeared Walter E. Myer, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Editor of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 411, Postal Laws and Regulations, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business manager are: Publisher, Civic Education Service, Washington, D. C.; Editor, Walter E. Myer, Washington, D. C.; Managing Editor, Clay Cross, Washington, D. C.; Business Manager, Ruth G. Myer, Washington, D. C.

2. That the owners are Walter E. Myer, Washington, D. C.; and Ruth G. Myer, Washington, D. C.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: none.

WALTER E. MYER, Editor  
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 6th day of October 1942.  
Julian E. Caraballo  
Notary Public, District of Columbia.  
My Commission expires February 13, 1947.



# The Story of the Week

## The President's Address

President Roosevelt, in his radio address last Monday night, gave a report to the nation on the observations made during his recent trip. He reported that war production is proceeding efficiently and that the morale of the nation is high. He said positively that we will win the war. This was his answer to government officials who have been saying that we are losing it. Among the other positions taken by the President in his address were these:

There is to be a second front; that is, we will carry the war to the enemy. Plans have already been made but naturally cannot be made public.

There is a shortage of manpower. High school students should be given time when necessary to help on the farms and elsewhere. It is hoped that workers can be induced to work where most needed, but if necessary he indicated that they should be drafted for industry just as they are drafted into the Army.

Young men are needed for the armed forces, particularly for foreign duty. It will be necessary to extend conscription to the 18- and 19-year-olds.

The men in the Army are well provided for. Care is being taken to see that they are well fed and equipped and protected in every possible way.

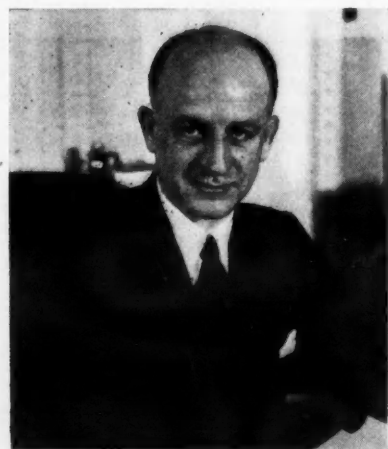
The tone of the President's address was confident and determined.

## Stalingrad

After the Battle of Stalingrad, the greatest battle of human history, had raged with tremendous losses on both sides for seven weeks, the Germans gave up, at least temporarily, their attempts to storm the city. The big guns continue to roar. The Nazis say that they will destroy what is left of Stalingrad by artillery fire and bombardments from the air, but a halt has been called to the infantry and tank attacks. The main bodies of the two armies are no longer engaged.

The announcement that the assaults on Stalingrad were to cease came only eight days after Hitler had promised his people that the city would be taken. What happened during those eight days to cause the Nazi high command to change plans?

Probably one reason for the change was the counteroffensive which the Russians were launching upon the German left flank north of Stalingrad. This attack was making con-



Sumner Welles



**RUSSIA'S PROBLEM—LENGTHENING SUPPLY LINES.** Germany's thrust to the Volga and the fighting at Stalingrad force Russia to search for longer supply lines to carry badly needed aid and oil from the south to her many fronts. The map shows the main available supply routes, two of which have been partially cut by the Nazis.

siderable progress. The Russians coming down from the north were threatening to get well in the rear of the Germans before Stalingrad. Probably there was not much danger that the main German army would be cut off and surrounded, but the Nazis may have felt it necessary to send more troops to protect the left flank. This naturally weakened their striking power at Stalingrad.

Furthermore, German losses were extremely heavy. The railroads, locomotives, cars, and other equipment used in carrying supplies over long distances for the attacking army were probably wearing out. Winter was rapidly approaching, and the Germans must have felt the need of establishing winter quarters better than they had last year.

The Nazis seem now to be pinning their hopes on an offensive south of Stalingrad. They are pushing on to the east in the section just north of the Caucasus Mountains. They are driving toward the Grozny oil fields and Astrakhan on the Caspian Sea. If they can capture the territory between the Black Sea and the Caspian and can seize the mouth of the Volga River, they can shut off most of the traffic between north and central Russia and the Caucasus region in the south. They can make it very difficult for the British and Americans to send supplies into Russia from the southern route; that is, from the Persian Gulf up to the Caspian and thence into Russia.

If the Germans move as far east as this—much farther east than Stalingrad—while the Russians still hold that city, a Soviet attack from the region of Stalingrad on the German left flank is a possibility. The Russians in the past, however, have not demonstrated the power to carry out an effective and long-continued offensive. Time and again last winter they made dents in the German lines. They did it again early last summer in their drive against Kharkov, but they haven't quite the punch which

would enable them to go through.

The Germans have desperately hurt Russia. They have cut off much of her oil supply and threaten to cut off more. They may get into a position which will enable them to strike damaging blows quickly next spring. But it is quite clear now that the Nazis have failed to realize the main objective of their summer campaign. They have not destroyed the Russian armies. They have not made any advance in the direction of Moscow. The prestige of Germany has suffered badly through the failure to take Stalingrad. The Bulgarian allies are losing confidence in the Nazis and the Turks are less fearful of them.

## Reprisals

While the raid at Dieppe was in progress, the British tied the hands of a number of German prisoners. They say they had a right under international law thus to shackle prisoners in the heat of battle. The Germans charge a violation of the rules of war and in reprisal they have shackled more than a thousand British prisoners who are in their hands. The British and Canadians have replied by chaining equal numbers of German prisoners. The Germans now say they will shackle three British prisoners for every one put in chains by the British. And so the reprisals go on.

## Bombers in Action

The American heavy bombers demonstrated their fighting power in an attack upon Lille, France, a railway center and manufacturer of locomotives, tanks, and other war equipment. About a hundred Flying Fortresses and Liberators took part in the attack, supported by 500 British fighter planes. The Germans sent a great fleet of their best fighters to meet the attackers. They concentrated, not on the British fighting planes, but on the American bombers. The bombers proved that they can

not only bomb, but fight. They shot down certainly as many as 50, and perhaps as many as 100, German planes, and only four bombers were lost.

This battle indicated that the best of the German planes have not solved the problem of meeting our heavily armored bombers. As we get larger numbers of the bombers into action, the danger to German cities and production plants will grow. Terrific battles for the control of the air over western Europe may be expected, and past performances are such as to make Americans hopeful of the outcome.

## Willkie's Observations

Wendell Willkie has completed a trip which has carried him into the fighting zones of North Africa, the Near East, Russia, and China. He has visited many of the neutral peoples of the world, including the Egyptians and Persians, in addition to those actively engaged in the war. Mr. Willkie says that people everywhere want the United Nations to win and that they want them to get on the offensive immediately. These people also want liberty and independence for themselves when the war is over. Many of them are doubtful, however, whether the United Nations will give them freedom and independence if they win the war, and this is a check on their enthusiasm.

In order to convince the people of Asia that the United Nations will really do something for them if they win, Mr. Willkie thinks that the principles stated in the Atlantic Charter should be extended to include the people of the Far East. Though he did not mention India specifically, he no doubt had the people of India in mind, and also the Chinese, Egyptians, and others.

## A Promise to China

The American and British governments have already given assurance to China that in case of a United Na-



A big question  
HALLADAY IN PROVIDENCE JOURNAL

tions victory, the Chinese will be accorded a place of greater dignity among the nations. These governments have promised to give up the practice of extraterritoriality in China.

The European nations, including the United States and Great Britain, have in the past insisted upon this practice. If any of their citizens in China are accused of a crime, they are tried, not by the Chinese courts, but by the consular courts of their



own countries. If an American in China were accused of a crime, he would be tried before an American consul.

Such a practice as this (called extraterritoriality) has frequently been used when the European nations have dealt with backward countries or with countries whose laws were very different from their own. That is why the practice has been maintained in China. But naturally this is very offensive to the Chinese. It implies that they are an inferior people. The Chinese have long insisted that the European nations give up their rights of extraterritoriality, and this is what the British and Americans now promise to do.

## Good Neighbors

Relations between the United States on the one hand and Chile and Argentina on the other hand are somewhat strained as a result of a statement made by Undersecretary of State Sumner Welles. Mr. Welles called attention to the fact that though all the Latin American countries promised last winter at Rio de Janeiro that they would break diplomatic relations with the Axis powers, Chile and Argentina have not done so. He said that the Axis diplomatic and consular officials are still doing business in these countries; that they obtain information about the movement of American and Allied ships and fleets and this information has enabled Axis submarines to sink our ships. He expressed the hope that Chile and Argentina may fall in line with the other Western Hemisphere nations. All the rest of these nations have either declared war on the Axis powers or have broken diplomatic relations with them.

The governments of Argentina and Chile have protested against this statement. President Rios of Chile, who was ready to start on a visit to the United States, has canceled the trip. The lack of unity between Chile and Argentina and the rest of the Western Hemisphere countries has come out into the open.

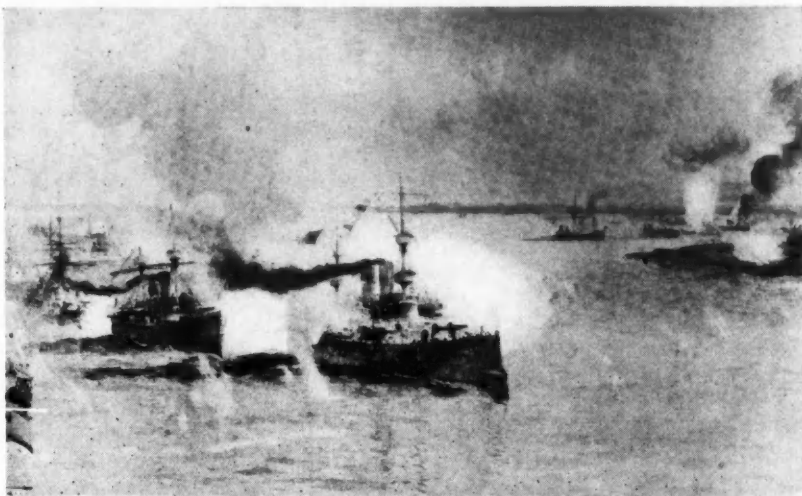
Probably a majority of the people of Argentina sympathize with the British and American cause, but the government, that is, the President, who has assumed dictatorial powers, is pro-Axis in sympathy. The newspapers of Argentina are not permitted to discuss the President's foreign policies.

One can scarcely say that the government of Chile is pro-Axis, and the majority of the people are definitely pro-Ally, but the Chileans are afraid



ACME

FIRST EDITION. William Jeffers, Rubber Coordinator, receives the first tire to be made entirely of reclaimed rubber from F. S. Carpenter, General Manager of the Tire Division of the U. S. Rubber Company.



FENN FROM HARPER'S MAGAZINE

MEMORY OF ANOTHER DAY. In the great Battle of Manila Bay during the Spanish-American War, the two battleships Olympia and Oregon played a leading part. The Olympia was Admiral Dewey's flagship and is here shown in the lead. In order to provide scrap metal for another war, the Oregon, long preserved as a relic, will be dismantled. The Olympia, however, will not be destroyed.

that the Japanese will attack their long unprotected coast line if they enter the Allied camp. Furthermore, they, like the Argentines, are afraid of what the Germans might do to them if they should go over now to the United States and Great Britain. These two countries want to sit on the fence, to be neutral, to wait and see which side is going to win.

The other Western Hemisphere nations who have broken relations with the Axis and have come over to our side object to this lukewarmness on the part of the Chileans and Argentines. Some of them are asking why they should take the risk involved in joining with us if their neighbors to the south are allowed to stand aside and avoid the risks. It is bad for the morale of the other Latin American countries for Chile and Argentina to hold out. That is why Mr. Welles has expressed American impatience.

## News Items in Brief

A gigantic network of super-highways will be built in the United States if a bill which was placed before the House of Representatives last week is passed. The system would include 14 strategic routes, as well as airplane landing fields along the highways, and would cost a total of \$10,000,000,000. Nearly all the construction, of course, would have to be delayed until after the war.

All young people engaged in the nationwide scrap collection campaign can consider themselves members of "America's Junior Army," which was officially organized and named by the government. In each community, the members are working in close cooperation with the local salvage organization. They canvass the homes and farms assigned to them, collect smaller articles, and make lists of the larger items which are to be picked up later in trucks.

Congress recently gave the Navy the money and authority to go ahead with the purchase of over \$15,000,000,000 worth of war equipment. The list includes 500,000 tons of aircraft carriers, 500,000 tons of cruisers, 900,000 tons of destroyers, and 14,611 new naval planes.

Is a nickel still a nickel when it no longer contains any nickel? That's the question raised by the recent Treasury order calling for new nickels to be made of 35 per cent silver,

## Tax Bill

The Senate has passed a tax bill which greatly increases income taxes. It taxes the incomes of all single persons who make \$500 or more a year and of all married persons who make as much as \$1200 a year.

This bill, like all such tax measures, is very complex. There is the regular or normal income tax, and also a so-called "victory tax." "How the combination of increased income rates, lowered exemptions and victory tax collections would strike the average citizen," says the Washington Post, "could be seen from these instances:

"A single man earning \$700 a year, paying no taxes this year, would pay \$23.77 next year; one earning \$1,000 and paying \$11.40 this year would pay \$84.70 next year; one earning \$2,500 and paying \$141 this year, would pay \$389.35 next year.

56 per cent copper, and nine per cent manganese. The design will be the same as that of the present Jefferson nickel. In addition to cutting out the use of nickel entirely, 40 per cent of the copper formerly used will be saved.

War expenditures during the government's fiscal, or bookkeeping, year which began last July 1 will reach an all-time high of about \$78,000,000,000—or \$22,000,000,000 more than the President estimated the first of this year. Expanding war production, higher pay for the armed services, and allotments to service men's dependents are the chief causes of the increase.

Remote Coast Guard stations are now to be served by four motorized dental clinics. The dental surgeon in charge of each unit will have a Coast Guard pharmacist's mate along to serve as chauffeur and assistant.

## Pronunciations

Agattu—ah-gah-too'  
Andreanof—ahn-dray-ah'noff  
Astrakhan—as-trah-kan'  
Attu—at-too'  
Caucasus—ko'kah-sus  
Dieppe—dee-ep'  
Grozny—groz'nee  
Guadalcanal—gwah-dahl-kah-nahl'  
Kamchatka—kahm-chah't'kah  
Kharkov—kahr'koff  
Lille—leel'  
Rios—ree'os—o as in go

"A married person with two dependents earning \$700 and paying no taxes this year would pay \$2.13 next year; one earning \$1,000 and paying no taxes this year, would pay \$10.53 next year; one earning \$2,500 paying no taxes this year would pay \$124.53 next year.

"Other typical payments under the Senate bill:

"Single persons: \$186.50 on \$1500 gross income; \$496.90 in taxes on \$3000 income; \$957.10 on \$5000 income; \$2407.60 on \$10,000 income; \$24,329.80 on \$50,000 income.

"Married persons, no dependents: \$46.68 on \$1500 income; \$340.08 on \$3000 income; \$770.28 on \$5000 income; \$2107.28 on \$10,000 income; \$23,363.28 on \$50,000 income.

"Married persons, two dependents: \$24.53 on \$1500; \$221.33 on \$3000; \$629.53 on \$5000; \$1908.53 on \$10,000; \$22,862.53 on \$50,000.

## Tires

Price Administrator Leon Henderson says that the government will try to provide tires of some kind for all cars which are being put to essential uses. If the owner of a car is using it for essential work, if he holds to the speed rules which have been adopted, takes care of his tires,



It's a great life if you don't weaken!  
TALBURY IN WASHINGTON NEWS

and uses his car as fully as possible, the attempt will be made to see that he gets recaps or used tires enough to keep his car going.

The price administrator does not promise that this can be done, but he evidently thinks there is a good prospect that enough recaps and used tires may be available so that the plan could be carried out.

## The American Observer

Published weekly throughout the year (except two issues in December and three issues from the middle of August to the first week in September) by the CIVIC EDUCATION SERVICE, 744 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C.  
Subscription price, single copy, \$2 a calendar year. In clubs of five or more for class use, \$1 a school year or 50 cents a semester. For a term shorter than a semester the price is 3 cents a week.  
Entered as second-class matter Sept. 15, 1931, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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Weekly News Review  
The Junior Review  
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MAP BY JOHNSON

## United States Takes Offensive in Pacific

(Concluded from page 1)

offensive in the western Aleutians. When the Japanese seized the three islands early in June, there was widespread fear that they would force their way eastward, would threaten and perhaps seize our great naval base at Dutch Harbor, would then be poised to strike at Alaska proper and continental United States. In fact, there is good reason to believe that the Japanese planned to capture Dutch Harbor, because they sent aircraft carriers, other warships, and troop transports. The attack was synchronized with the Battle of Midway Island.

### Japanese Failure

Had this two-pronged assault been successful, Japan would have been in a position to deal us crippling blows. Midway stands as an outpost to the Hawaiian Islands and had Japan succeeded in taking that vital base, her planes and ships could have seriously endangered our most important position in the Pacific. At Dutch Harbor, the Japanese would have had a naval base from which to menace our control of the northern Pacific area.

The Battle of Midway was a resounding defeat for the Japanese, and all they got from the assault on the Aleutians was the landings on the three western islands. While possession of these islands might well serve to bolster Japanese morale, their strategic importance was slight unless they could be used as steppingstones to further conquests in the Aleutians.

In order to mount an offensive against the Japanese in the western Aleutians, gigantic feats of engineering had to be accomplished. Air bases had to be established several hundred miles closer to the islands of Attu, Agattu, and Kiska than those existing at Dutch Harbor, Anchorage, and Kodiak. Bombers based at these points might well make the trip, but the distances were too great to permit fighter planes to protect them.

This handicap has been overcome by establishing bases in the Andreanof group of islands, in the central Aleutians. Several thousand American troops were transported to these islands to build the bases for fighters and bombers. The Army Air Force engineers were responsible for this job. Daily they worked around the

clock. In five days, they had built an airdrome to accommodate fighter planes and in another week bases for giant bombers were ready. In the Andreanof group, stations were set up where it was possible to determine the weather conditions prevailing on Kiska and the other two islands in Japanese hands. These bases are only 125 miles from Kiska.

It is from these new bases that the recent attacks upon Kiska have been launched. Whether aerial attacks alone will be sufficient to dislodge the 10,000 or so Japanese estimated to be established on Kiska is unknown. It is known that severe destruction of the Japanese camp area has taken place as well as the bombing of a seaplane hangar and Japanese ships in the region.

The Japanese are believed not to have succeeded in establishing an effective air base on Kiska since they seized the island inasmuch as there has been little resistance to the attacks of American flyers. It is estimated that our warships and planes have sunk or damaged 39 Japanese ships in the Aleutians, most of them at Kiska. The Japanese must depend upon seaplanes which are much slower and less effective in combat. It may be, however, that we shall have to land troops in order to dislodge the Japanese from Kiska.

### Alaska and Aleutians

However difficult the job, military officials appear determined to oust the Japanese from the Aleutians, for so long as they remain there our northern flank is exposed and we are handicapped in assaulting Japan directly. It is important to realize, also, that Alaska and the Aleutians lie in the most direct air route between the northern part of North America and the northern part of Asia. This route is bound to play an increasingly important role in the shipment of supplies to Russia and China.

If we can establish ourselves securely throughout the Aleutians, we shall be in a better position to attack Japan from the air. The distance, for example, from Attu to the northernmost point in Japan is only 710 miles. Even from bases such as those now established in the Andreanof Islands, our long-range bombers may be able

to go out and raid the enemy. When large-scale attacks upon Japan are launched, the Aleutians will figure prominently in the campaign.

Moreover, if Japan should become involved in war with Russia, by attacking Siberia, the Aleutians will prove indispensable in lending aid to Russia. The day may come when American planes, based on Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula, will bomb the industrial cities of Japan proper. Here again the Aleutians would serve as intermediate bases between continental United States and the Far Eastern theater of war.

It has been only the grim realities of war that have brought home to the American people the importance of Alaska and the Aleutians to our defense. Since Pearl Harbor, feverish activity has prevailed in strengthening all our Army and Navy bases. The rapidly constructed bases in the Andreanof Islands is but one example. Dutch Harbor itself has been made ready for whatever might come. Secret air bases have been built at many crucial points in Alaska and the Aleutians. Details of all the preparations that have been made are, of course, military secrets, but it is known that no stone has been left unturned in making ready for any eventuality.

One of the most important steps taken in strengthening our northern outpost has been the building of the Alcan Highway, connecting continental United States with Alaska. As reported in last week's issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, this highway, extending over a thousand or more miles of Canadian and Alaskan territory, most of it wild and forbidding, is to be completed about December 1, three months ahead of schedule.

The Alcan Highway will serve as a great convoy route over which huge supplies of military equipment of all kinds will be transported to Alaska. Lack of land communication has heretofore been one of the most serious drawbacks to the full defense of Alaska, and the Alcan Highway will go far toward removing this obstacle. Thus, in a dozen different ways, we have been strengthening our position in Alaska and the Aleutians.

Difficult as the problem of dislodging the Japanese from Kiska will

be, it is relatively simple compared with the problems our forces are facing in the south Pacific. The major efforts of both ourselves and Japan are concentrated in the Solomon Islands. Our Marines, aided by the Navy, must fight under the most difficult of conditions to maintain the hold they have and to gain additional territory. It is difficult for them to get supplies and reinforcements. The islands are covered with jungles and the steaming tropical heat is hard on soldiers who are unaccustomed to fighting under such conditions. Hanson W. Baldwin, writing in the New York Times, describes the type of fighting now taking place in the Solomons:

In jungle fighting, opposing forces are only a few yards apart, hidden from each other by a thick, leafy screen. Camouflage and concealment are of prime importance; if the enemy sees you before you see him you will probably never know what hit you.

The Battle of the Solomon Islands is likely to be a costly and protracted venture. The stakes are great. We must oust the Japanese from the islands and establish a firm hold on them if we hope to protect the supply lines leading to Australia and if we are to prevent Japan from menacing Australia proper. Moreover, we must have the Solomons and New Guinea as bases for future attacks upon Japan. Our hold on the island of Guadalcanal is today far from secure and the Japanese are trying desperately to push our Marines off the island. They are constantly bringing up reinforcements.

If we can win the present battles in both the Aleutians and the Solomons, we will have greatly strengthened our position in the entire Pacific area. We will have rendered our defenses more secure and we will have established ourselves in positions from which we can later take the offensive against the enemy.

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# War Alters American Life

(Concluded from page 1)

used in the manufacture of articles for ordinary civilian consumption are now being made into various kinds of articles for war purposes. Here are a number of illustrations mentioned in the bulletin to which we have referred:

Brass used in one safety razor holder will make three .30 calibre cartridges.

Rubber in tires and parts of 18 passenger automobiles equals rubber in one 28-ton Army tank or one four-engine bomber.

Steel in one washing machine will make three machine guns.

Wool in cuffs from 21 men's suits is equal to wool in one Army uniform.

One five-pound flat iron contains enough steel scrap to make 10 hand grenades.

Copper formerly used in making pocket knives will make 3,000 smoke tanks for airplanes.

A pair of roller skates, two door hinges, one door lock, one old spade, one trash burner, and one trash basket will make four .38 calibre revolvers or eight bayonets.

One pound of waste kitchen fats contains enough glycerine to fire four anti-aircraft shells.

## Transportation for War

The transportation industry, like many other industries, is being diverted to military purposes. Many of the tankers which formerly hauled gasoline and oil from Gulf to East Coast ports have been sunk. Most of

Though our factories and farms are actually producing very much more than they did a year ago, less is available for the people of the country to use than last year. At the same time, the people have much more to spend than they had a year ago. Here are the figures on incomes, production, and expenditures for the period under consideration:

In 1941, the total income payments to all the people of the country amounted to 92 billion dollars. The people used 18 billions to pay their taxes and to invest in savings of one kind or another. They had 74 billions left to spend for the things they needed or wanted. The total supply of goods and services for civilian use amounted to 74 billions, so there was an exact balance.

In 1942, the income payments to all individuals are rising from last year's 92 billions to an estimated 117 billions. Taxes are higher and people are saving more—are buying war bonds and are saving in other ways. The money they spend for taxes and savings will, by the end of the year, amount to 31 billions, according to estimates. This leaves them 86 billion dollars to buy the things they want. But the value of the total supply of civilian goods and services this year will be, according to estimates, only 69 billion dollars.

This means that the people have enough money to pay for more goods than are being produced. For every four of buying power, there are only three dollars' worth of goods and services.

## For Economic Stabilization

What happens when people have enough to buy more goods than are on hand? Ordinarily, this leads to a rise in prices. People are anxious to spend their money for goods. They know that the goods are scarce, so they are willing to pay higher prices for the things they want. Those who have goods to sell know that they can sell them even though prices are raised. So there are price rises all along the line. As a matter of fact, prices actually were rising early this year.

Then the government stepped in and forbade the raising of prices. Prices of most of the things people buy were fixed by the Office of Price Administration last April. The regulation of prices did not apply, however, to several kinds of farm products. It did not apply to wages, and it applied to rents only in certain parts of the country.

It was to close the loopholes that Congress passed the act described in THE AMERICAN OBSERVER last week. As explained in last week's paper, Justice Byrnes was made Director of Economic Stabilization, with power to fix prices of practically all goods produced in the nation; power to fix wages and rents. But the Office of Price Administration was continued. The OPA, with Leon Henderson at its head, puts into effect the price, wage, and rent policies decided upon by Mr. Byrnes. (See THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, October 12, for details as to measures of control which have been put into effect.)

But it is not enough merely to control prices. There must also be a rationing program in the case of scarce goods. Suppose we did not have rationing—let us see what



"A bit sharp at first, Sam, but we soon get used to it."

would happen. The people of the nation have money enough to buy more goods than are being produced. The demand for goods exceeds the supply. Everyone knows that many things needed by the people are scarce, that there is not enough to go around if everyone bought all that he would like to have. Under such circumstances, people frequently hoard. There are many with a surplus of money in their pockets who go out and buy for future use. Those who have the most money and those who are the most greedy soon buy up the scarce goods. The shelves of the stores are soon empty and the bulk of the population must suffer.

## Importance of Rationing

But here is where rationing comes in. The government decrees that whether people have extra money or not, they cannot buy more than a certain amount of scarce materials. Sugar is now rationed. Tires are rationed. They can be bought only by those with special needs. Gasoline has for some time been rationed in the eastern states, and will soon be rationed throughout the nation. Many other articles will, as the months go by, be added to the list. Those who have a surplus of money and those who are greedy will no longer be able to hog the market. All the people will have a chance to buy scarce materials in accordance with their needs. Such is the purpose of rationing.

This purpose of rationing and its general effect upon the people of the whole country should be kept in mind by those who are inclined to complain because of inconveniences incident to the program.

In the case of automobile tires, the government does not stop with price control and rationing. It limits the amount that owners may use their tires, and regulates the manner of use. One may have only a limited amount of gasoline so that he cannot drive more than is necessary, and he must not drive at a high speed, for that wears tires more rapidly.

These provisions are absolutely necessary. There are about 27 million automobiles in the country. If the number in use falls below 20 million, there won't be enough to carry workmen to their work, to haul supplies and do other necessary war work. The entire war effort will be badly affected.

Yet, about a million sets of tires are wearing out each month, and the cars go out of use. By the end of this year, at the present rate, there will be but 20 million cars in use. Then the danger point will be reached. After that, war work will suffer because of the slowing down of transportation.

It is necessary, then, that every car owner save his tires for use as long as possible. It is as necessary that he do this as that the soldier take good care of his gun, for cars as well as guns are needed to win the war. That is why the government has made drastic rules about the use of privately owned automobiles.

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Leon Henderson

the remaining tankers are now being used to carry fuel to our armed forces on the battle fronts and to our Allies. Railroads, trucks and buses, and civilian airplanes are employed to carry soldiers and sailors to camps and ports, to transport raw materials to war factories, and finished military equipment and supplies to places where needed.

With a growing share of transportation devoted to military purposes, consumers are being faced by shortages in this important industry. In the East, for example, even the tremendously increased use of tank and coal cars may not be able to supply the normal demand for fuel oil and anthracite coal for household furnaces, during the winter of 1942-43. Furthermore, civilians, unless engaged in essential war work, are experiencing difficulties in getting seats or Pullman space on passenger trains in certain areas.

## News Quiz of the Week

(Turn to page 8, column 4, for answer key)

1. True or false: All official government news is issued by the Office of War Information.
2. A vacancy was created on the Supreme Court bench when Justice James F. Byrnes was appointed to be Director of Economic Stabilization. What other member of the Court has asked to be relieved of his judicial duties so that he can take over active military duties?
3. Are the Solomon Islands on the equator, north of the equator, or south of the equator?
4. Who is in charge of United States war propaganda which is broadcast by short wave to foreign countries?
5. There have been recent uprisings against the Nazis at Trondheim. Where is Trondheim?
6. If an American bombing plane were to take off from Pearl Harbor to bomb the Japanese base at Kiska, in which direction would it have to fly?
7. What important change has recently taken place in the organization of the CIO?
8. What prominent Latin American official recently canceled a scheduled trip to the United States?
9. William H. Standley is coming to the United States soon to report to the President. Who is this man?
10. War spending in this country hit a peak in September. Are our daily expenditures for war nearest (a) \$10,000,000; (b) \$125,000,000; (c) \$275,000,000; or (d) \$450,000,000?
11. What country joined the United Nations officially a few days ago, and how many United Nations does that make?
12. The Senate version of the new tax bill provides for a "Victory Tax." How much will it amount to?
13. True or false: Since Columbus Day the 600,000 Italian citizens living in the United States are no longer regarded as enemy aliens by the United States government.



## How Our News Is Censored

**A**LTHOUGH the United States has been under a system of wartime censorship ever since Pearl Harbor, the average citizen has been unable to notice any real shortage of news. To be sure, the weather reports have been somewhat sketchy, and certain news has been delayed. The loss of the aircraft carrier *Lexington* was not announced until five weeks after the Battle of the Coral Sea; the public did not hear of the invasion of the Aleutians for well over a week; and the visit to this country last spring of Premier Molotov was announced only after he had returned to Russia. But it was not until President Roosevelt's secret tour of the nation's defense centers that the American public really began to feel the existence of a censor.

It comes as a surprise to many people to learn that this censorship of newspapers, magazines, and radio in this country is voluntary. When the Office of Censorship was set up under Byron Price last December, all government agencies and departments submitted a list of the types of information which they did not want printed or broadcast. These were unified into a censorship "code," which was then submitted to representatives of the various publishing and radio industries for their approval. It is because these channels of communication all agreed beforehand to abide by the code that censorship may be called "voluntary."

The code lists first of all those items of fact and types of information which obviously cannot be made public because they would give aid and comfort to the enemy. These include news of troop and ship movements, location of both our own and

Of even more importance, the War and Navy and other departments exercise a very real censorship by filtering the news they release. In the final analysis, almost all the news we read about our own war activities comes directly from these departments, and they release only such material as they wish the public to know. Thus the Office of Censorship is really only the official figurehead which acts as the go-between for the Army, Navy, and other government agencies on the one hand, and the channels of communication on the other.

This fact becomes even more apparent when we note an important provision in the censorship code. The code asks newspapers and broadcasters not to disclose certain things *unless the information comes from a competent authority!* Thus if a responsible person in the government issues a certain report, which is then printed in the papers, the Office of Censorship has no power to interfere.

Moreover, if a newspaper or a radio station should step over the line and print forbidden information without proper authority, there is nothing the Office of Censorship could do legally by way of punishment. Of course, if the paper or broadcaster persisted in open violation of the code, it might lose the right to receive information and news from any government source, and undoubtedly great pressure would be brought to bear by the Army, Navy, and FBI. As a matter of fact, in almost a year of wartime censorship, there have been only a tiny handful of cases of violation, and most of those were found to have been due to mistake or misunderstanding.



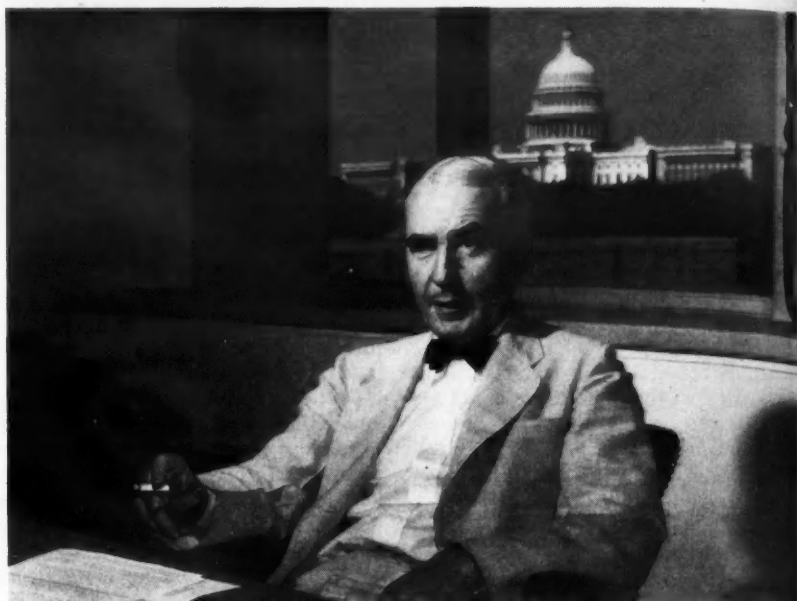
Byron Price heads the Office of Censorship

enemy troops, ship losses, statistics of war production, and discussion of pending diplomatic negotiations. In addition, there are listed many other borderline types of information which cannot be printed until the Office of Censorship has given its approval. In such cases the censor usually confers with the Army or Navy, or whatever official agency is concerned, and acts on its advice or wishes.

It is evident, then, that the real censor in most cases is actually the Army and Navy. They set up in the original code the list of things they do not want published, and in questionable cases they exercise the final authority.

Although newspapers, magazines, and radio stations have been quite willing to cooperate with the requests of the Office of Censorship, there have been numerous leaks of information. These are due partly to indiscreet statements by responsible officials, who, as we have just noted, are not subject to control by the censor.

But even more important are the indiscretions of a talking public and a talking Congress. Everything that is said on the floor of Congress is printed in the *Congressional Record*, and the Office of Censorship can hardly ask newspapers not to reprint what appears in the *Record*.



Elmer Davis heads the Office of War Information

Even further from the censor's control, of course, are the citizens who repeat rumors and important military information.

This domestic censorship which has just been described is by far the most important part of the censor's work, yet strangely enough, he spends little money on it. Actually, 98 per cent of his budget goes for checking international communications. Letters which leave or enter this country are carefully read to assure that they do not reveal vital information. Similar control is maintained over telegrams, cablegrams, and the radiotelephone. The postal division of the Office of Censorship alone has more than 6,000 employees in the chief ports of this country who check mail and watch for valuable bits of information which might be useful to our government.

It is interesting to note that the censor makes no attempt to stop the publication of news reports which originate abroad, even though they are items on the code. The reason for this is simple: if the news originated abroad, the enemy already has it, and there is no point in suppressing it from the American public. The viewpoint of Mr. Price is that the public should have as much information as possible and as promptly as possible, consistent with national security.

In direct contrast to this censorship of the nation's news is the work of the Office of War Information, which last June absorbed the Office of Facts and Figures, the Office of Government Reports, the Office of the Coordinator of Information, and other information agencies. Under the direction of Elmer Davis, well-known author and broadcaster, OWI is carrying on the important work of war information and war propaganda for the United States.

"It is the job of OWI," Mr. Davis told a congressional committee a few days ago, "not only to tell the American people how the war is going, but where it is going and where it came from—its nature and origins, how our government is conducting it, and what, besides national survival, our government hopes to get out of victory. We believe that the better American people understand the war, the harder they will work and fight to win it."

Of course, OWI is by no means a funnel through which all official news is channeled. As has already been indicated, the real sources of news are the publicity bureaus of the

Army, Navy, and various government agencies such as WPB, OPA, the Departments of State, Agriculture, and so on. What OWI tries to do is to coordinate all this information, to see that conflicting reports do not come from different agencies, that public officials do not make contradictory statements. OWI also advises all government agencies as to the best methods of presenting information to the public.

In addition to this coordinating and advising work, OWI carries on an extensive information program of its own. It uses every available means of communication—radio, movies, magazines, pamphlets, posters, newspapers, speeches, discussion groups—to present background information to the American public and to stimulate the energy and will necessary to win the war.

The foreign propaganda work of OWI is in the hands of a highly trained staff of former newspaper, magazine, and radio writers, authors, playwrights, and ex-foreign correspondents. Concentrating on telling the truth, for Elmer Davis believes that is the best policy, these men prepare scores of news reports and radio programs each day, which are then sent out over America's 14 international short-wave broadcasting stations. (Note by comparison that Germany has 68 such stations.) Handbills and leaflets carrying a propaganda message are also prepared to be dropped by bombers. They are often packaged with soap, matches, shoelaces, or gadgets to insure that they will be picked up and read.

In passing it should be noted that OWI does not handle quite all the foreign propaganda work. That relating to Latin America is in charge of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, Nelson A. Rockefeller.

"I hope nobody in this country is any longer scandalized by the word propaganda," says Mr. Davis. "Propaganda may be either true or false, directed to worthy or unworthy ends. Democracies have a good story to tell and they ought to tell it."

### Answers to News Quiz

1. False.
2. Justice Frank Murphy.
3. South of the equator.
4. Elmer Davis.
5. On the west coast of Norway.
6. Northwest.
7. The United Mine Workers under John L. Lewis has withdrawn from the CIO.
8. President Juan Antonio Ríos of Chile.
9. United States ambassador to Russia.
10. (c).
11. Ethiopia is No. 30.
12. Five per cent on all annual income over \$624.
13. True.